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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY International (France, Indochina, China, USSR, India)

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Indian Mediation in Indochina

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- On 2 Jan 54, A. S. Vinogradov, Soviet Ambassador to France, was instructed to test French reactions to Indian mediation in Indochina on the basis of a provisional armistice line along the 16th parallel in charge of Indian troops, French evacuation of Hanoi and the Delta, Vietminh to cease all activities in the Saigon region and Cambodia, and a political conference for the settlement of all difficulties to be held within three months at New Delhi.
- The truce proposals were discussed in Moscow on 20 Dec 53 by V. M. Molotov and K. S. Menon, Indian Ambassador, and were sent to Nehru for final approval. Menon belongs to the pro-Russian group of Indian officials. The armistice proposal is strongly backed by Ajoy Gosh, secretary general of the Indian Communist Party, who recently returned to India from Moscow with instructions to oppose the Pan-Asiatic tendencies of the Communist leader B. T. Ranadive.
- The proposal for Indian mediation is aimed at weakening the Pan-Asiatic tendencies of Mao Tse-tung. Chinese help to Ho Chi Minh is considered inadequate, and the Kremlin hopes to gain full control of Communist strategy in Asia through the proposal. Mao Tse-tung is not in a position to refuse such mediation.
- Vinogradov is expected to discuss the proposals with Mendès-France after his return from Haute-Savoie, where he is now staying.

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